

# About Acorn Naturalists' Kind Fur®

Over the years, we have received inquiries from individuals who want to teach about animal fur diversity, form, or function, but for a variety of reasons, do not want to purchase fur taken from once-living animals. Because we do not want to encourage the taking of animals just for their skins, we have never offered animal pelts. To find a substitute, we have spent years reviewing many hundreds of faux furs, and have developed a collection that comes *closest* to representing over 25 species.

Designed with the look and feel of each animal in mind, these replicas go well with storytelling and discovery table activities. We need to emphasize, however, that these replicas do not have holes where the animals eyes, ears, noses, paws or tails were. *Kind Furs*® are perfect for many uses, but because these are replicas (and since animal coloration can vary considerably even within each species), they will not match perfectly with any given actual animal skin.

*Kind Fur*® are now available in two forms: (1) as a convenient 9" x 5" two-sided swath that is sewn around the edges and finished with a strong loop for hanging or clipping onto a ring or (2) as a 9" x 12" section of replica fur adhered to the bottom of a (hand-crafted in the US) wooden box with a protective sliding lid.

Interestingly enough, because many *Kind Furs*® are so close in look and feel to real fur, we have actually fielded concerns from individuals who thought some of the replicas were real. Whenever you have this question about any fur, you can always distinguish faux fur from real fur by looking at the backing. In faux furs the hairs are always directly attached to cloth fabric, not to animal hide.

As was the case when we started promoting replica animal skulls 25 years ago, we are aware that these will work perfectly for most educational applications but not for all situations (such as research). Like all of our products, *Kind Fur*® replicas are fully guaranteed and returnable if they do not meet your needs.

## **Badger Kind Fur® (*Taxidea taxus*)**

In nature, badger fur varies considerably in color from steel gray to honey gold. This fur replica shows the long, rusty-brown and black guard hairs that run down a badger's back.

## **Bear, Black Kind Fur® – black phase (*Ursus americanus*)**

Black bears are not always black! North American black bears can sport multiple color variations, from honey-colored blond to cinnamon, dark brown or black. This fur replicates the black bear's dark, thick coat. It is glossy and soft and has a sheen in sunlight.

## **Bear, Black Kind Fur® - blonde phase (*Ursus americanus*)**

This replica demonstrates the honey-colored blond phase of the North American black bear.

## **Beaver Kind Fur® (*Castor canadensis*)**

Beaver fur is thick, short, brown in color, and soft to the touch with a velvety texture.

## **Bobcat Kind Fur® (*Lynx rufus*)**

In nature, color and pattern of bobcat fur are highly variable, ranging from numerous spots to only a few. As this fur replica demonstrates, bobcat fur is generally mottled with brown spots that are darkly ringed. The coat becomes thicker in the winter.

### **Chinchilla Kind Fur® (*Chinchilla lanigera*)**

This fur replica demonstrates the chinchilla's thick, silky soft coat. Chinchillas come in many color phases, from silvery gray to shades of brown.

### **Cougar Cub Kind Fur® (*Puma concolor*)**

This fur replica shows the distinct mottling that characterizes the coat of a young cougar. A cub's spots can be reddish-brown or darker brown. Serving as camouflage when cubs are most vulnerable, the spots start to fade after about three months. Adults have honey-colored coats.

### **Coyote Kind Fur® (*Canis latrans*)**

Coyote fur comes in a rich variety of colors, from silvery-brown to blond, rusty-cinnamon to brown, depending on the habitat and the individual. This thick, soft fur replica demonstrates the dusty, blond-gray color.

### **Ermine Kind Fur® (*Mustela erminea*)**

Also known as the short-tailed weasel, ermine have long, silky white guard hairs and a thick undercoat. This replica fur demonstrates the ermine's winter coat.

### **Fox, Arctic Kind Fur® (*Vulpes lagopus*)**

The coat of an Arctic fox changes with the seasons. In winter, thick white fur blends with snow and ice. By summer, the fur darkens to blend with rocks and soil. This fur replica shows a fox's coat in transition. It is streaked with some dark guard hairs, remnants of its summer color.

### **Fox, Gray Kind Fur® (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)**

This fur replica is silvery-gray and thick. Like other canines, soft fur lies beneath long, coarse guard hairs that can vary considerably in color.

### **Fox, Red Kind Fur® (*Vulpes vulpes*)**

A red fox has a soft, fine undercoat that ranges in color from red to chestnut. Long guard hairs mottle the color, sometimes bringing in darker brown shades. This replica duplicates the thick winter coat of the red fox.

### **Gopher, Pocket Kind Fur® (*Thomomys* sp.)**

There are many species of gopher, but all exhibit relatively short coats for ease of movement back and forth through their underground tunnels. This fur replica demonstrates the typical dark gray short coat typical of gophers.

### **Hare, Arctic Kind Fur® (*Lepus arcticus*)**

In winter the Arctic hare's coat is thick and white. By summer, the coat changes to blend in with the rocks and soil. This fur replica shows the hare's coat in transition. Darker patches of fur are visible against a background of white.

### **Leopard, Black Kind Fur® (*Panthera pardus, melanistic*)**

Black leopards do occur in the wild, particularly in very dense forests with limited light such as the equatorial rain forest of Malaya and heavily forested slopes of Mt. Kenya in Africa. Coats vary from heavily spotted to mottled, with the spots muted by the dark coat. This fur replica demonstrates the more mottled appearance.

### **Leopard Kind Fur® (*Panthera pardus*)**

Leopard coats vary widely, depending on whether they come from Africa, Asia or the Middle East. This replica represents the classic appearance which includes dark spots against a lighter background ranging from cream to chestnut.

**Lynx Kind Fur® (*Lynx canadensis*)**

The lynx has a thick undercoat covered with coarse guard hairs. Its coat is usually a brownish-silver, with creamy, pale areas especially on the belly and chin. The coat varies from heavily spotted to more mottled.

**Mink Kind Fur® (*Neovison vison*)**

Mink fur is soft and silky and typically dark chestnut-brown, as seen with this fur replica. The guard hairs are supported underneath by shorter, softer fur that is very dense. Mink fur has a classic glossy sheen in sunlight.

**Muskrat Kind Fur® (*Ondatra zibethicus*)**

Muskrat fur is thick and ranges from light to dark brown, as this fur replica shows. To keep warm in cool aquatic environments, muskrats have a dense, soft undercoat interspersed with coarser, longer guard hairs.

**Ocelot Kind Fur® (*Leopardus pardalis*)**

Ocelot fur is sleek, short, and honey-brown in color. Although it can vary considerably, ocelot fur is generally spotted with dark spots, as shown in this fur replica.

**Opossum Kind Fur® (*Didelphis virginiana*)**

Opossum fur is silvery and sometimes a grayish-white, as this fur replica shows. A thick underfur helps shield the animal from snow and rain. Opossum fur can vary in color from dark to light gray.

**Rabbit, Cottontail Kind Fur® (*Sylvilagus floridanus*)**

This fur replica demonstrates the cottontail rabbit's dense, silky-soft fur, which varies in color from gray to cinnamon to brown, depending on season, habitat, and individual rabbit. Rabbit fur is very soft and fine.

**Raccoon Kind Fur® (*Procyon lotor*)**

The raccoon has long, black-gray guard hairs over a thick, woolly coat. Although in nature there can be considerable variation, this fur replica shows the typical coloration—dark mottling caused by the guard hairs against a lighter undercoat.

**Squirrel, Gray Kind Fur® (*Sciurus carolinensis*)**

Squirrels have soft, short guard hairs over flat, dense underfur. This fur replica demonstrates one of the gray squirrel patterns—gray-silver interspersed with black, white and rusty-brown hairs.

**Wolf, Gray Kind Fur® (*Canis lupus*)**

A wolf's coat is thick and long, changing color with age and season. The soft, fine undercoat keeps the wolf warm, while thick guard hairs offer protection and additional insulation. This fur replica shows typical rich coloration with darker guard hairs.

**Wolf, Red Kind Fur® (*Canis rufus*)**

Like most canines, the coats of both the red and gray wolf can vary considerably. The red wolf gets its reddish coloration from thick and coarse guard hairs. These guard hairs shield the thick, woolly undercoat, which insulates the wolf and helps shed water and snow.